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Letter dated 3 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of my Government, I am writing to inform you that, according to reports of the Turkish news agency "Anatolia", the Turkish Government and the Muslim leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina are going to sign a framework agreement on military cooperation at the beginning of August. The agreement will be officially signed during the visit of a high-level Bosnian Muslim delegation headed by the Chief of Staff of the Muslim Army, General Rasim Delic, to Ankara. After the framework agreement is finalized, concrete forms of cooperation in military industry and officer training would follow.

As is well known, despite the objections of the majority of the Balkan countries and contrary to the basic principles of peace-keeping in the former Yugoslavia, especially regarding the presence of former occupying countries in the United Nations force, the Turkish Government dispatched its troops to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has on several occasions pointed out that it would be inappropriate for historical reasons and politically counterproductive for the Turkish troops to be deployed in the Balkans, where they had been occupiers for five centuries.

It was clear from the beginning that Turkey, which has openly sided with the Bosnian Muslims since the onset of the civil war in Bosnia, could not be an impartial factor. Now, when Turkey is openly planning to conclude a military

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cooperation agreement with the Bosnian Muslims, it is quite clear that the Turkish troops that have been deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot possibly retain a neutral and impartial position. The Security Council must therefore consider whether countries that maintain close military ties and even conclude military agreements with the parties to the Bosnian conflict should continue to contribute troops to the peace-keeping mission.

The presence of biased United Nations peace-keepers openly siding with one of the parties can only lead to an escalation of hostilities and a further erosion of the credibility of UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.